

2020
OCTOBER
CAA
NEWSLETTER



The Art of Learning

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*"You can't use up creativity. The more
you use, the more you have."
- Maya Angelou*

From the Principal

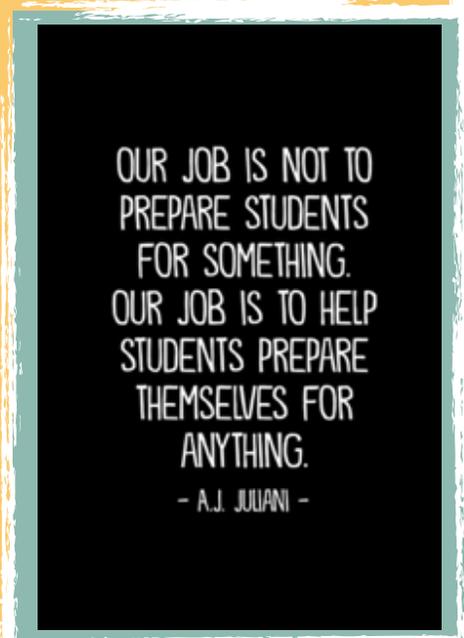
Like most people globally, the COVID-19 reality weighs heavy on my mind. We have all been forced to change the way we have "always done things." It has been an arduous task for all of us to learn new protocols and new ways of being to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our amazing community, including students, families, grandparents, staff and friends.

I listened to a podcast recently titled *Comfort in the Discomfort of Growth*, by George Couros. What I like about George Couros is his ability to pull out the learning in any situation. His message is that it is in the struggle of things, simple or complicated, that we are growing. We are all learning, and it is definitely uncomfortable! We've never gone through a pandemic before!

What I was reminded about in the podcast is that at Calgary Arts Academy, we have been explicitly preparing our students for a future in a fast-changing world. Our vision is to empower students to become self-directed, life-long learners who value community-focused and citizen-based action facilitated through effective communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking. A quote from A.J. Juliani is quite fitting, "Our job is not to prepare students for something. Our job is to help students prepare themselves for anything."

This novel situation that we have been presented is the best example of why we do what we do at Calgary Arts Academy. We understand that school cannot simply be a checklist of things to get through. School should be focused on helping others to navigate whatever comes their way. When we are uncomfortable, we know we are learning. As a community, I take comfort in knowing that we are all learning together.

Please stay safe!



Kindergarten/Year 1 News

Kindergarten and Year 1 students sure have some wonderful ideas! The ideas are so wonderful that they have inspired all of our contracts for this year. Our wonderings have led us on an exploration of rural and urban communities, how buildings are made and what makes them essential to the people in our communities. We are building our very own community made of urban and rural landmarks and houses. We can't wait to show you what they look like all together on October 23rd. We will be sharing all of our hard work through video so you can see our "CAA City Walk."



We have all enjoyed the wonderful weather September has brought and each class has been exploring Bankview by going on weekly community walks. We have used our senses to identify signs of fall and have been learning about the features in communities that keep us safe.



We have been spending time and learning with Ms. Kearney and Mr. E each week! This month we met our new librarian, Ms. Birch, who has been encouraging us to find books that we love.



Students in Kindergarten to Year 5 have created Circle of Courage/Medicine Wheel Super Heroes



Year 2/3 News

The Year 2/3 team has had some exciting changes over the past month! We have welcomed a new full time teacher to create a fifth Year 2/3 class! We now have four classes of Year 2/3 learning at school and one class of Year 2/3 students at home. We would like to welcome Ms. Kaitlin Kearney to the Year 2/3 team for the remainder of the school year. Staff, students and families appreciate her kind, thoughtful manner and recognize the diligent work she has demonstrated during these past few weeks. She has established relationships and rapport with students, and is looking forward to moving forward here in our community. She has come full circle at Calgary Arts Academy as she started here in Year 3 herself in our first year of operation.

Mrs. Rebekah Dolen is currently on leave and we welcome Ms. Tabitha Beedle to our learning community to work with Mrs. Dolen's class until she returns.

We are continuing to explore our lost and found art; expanding our experiences as artists, connecting to and building community through our artistic explorations. We have explored and created using watercolour, oil pastels, fibre arts, dance, music, digital design, pointillism and photography. We are also exploring our own passions and artistic practice at home as we complete our at-home extension projects. In science, we are conducting mini-experiments to learn all about magnets and we are using our imaginations to travel around the world and visit the country of Tunisia.

Building our capacity and confidence as readers and writers is a focus for this year and the Year 2/3 team has been introducing our Daily 5 routine in the classroom. We ask that parents continue to work with their child at home by engaging in 20 minutes of reading each night.

Looking forward to after October break, we will be starting our second contract "The Art Of Learning." Some of the questions we will explore are: How do we learn? Why do we learn? How do I grow as a learner? How do I take responsibility for my learning? And how do I share the magic of learning with others?



Terry Fox School Run

During the last week of September, we participated in our annual Terry Fox School Run, which looked very different due to COVID-19 precautions. Foregoing the mixing of campuses with students buddied up with older students like previous years, students instead ran with their cohort classes during their gym class. At the Knob Hill campus we decorated a running course around the playground. We missed running, jogging or walking around Enmax Park down at the Stampede Grounds, but the spirit of the run was just as magical. Elementary students ran four laps and then participated in activities such as hurdles, a potato sack race and tag games. Thank you to the students, parent volunteers and staff for helping Ms. Billington and Mr. Lapointe complete fun, exciting individual class runs this week.



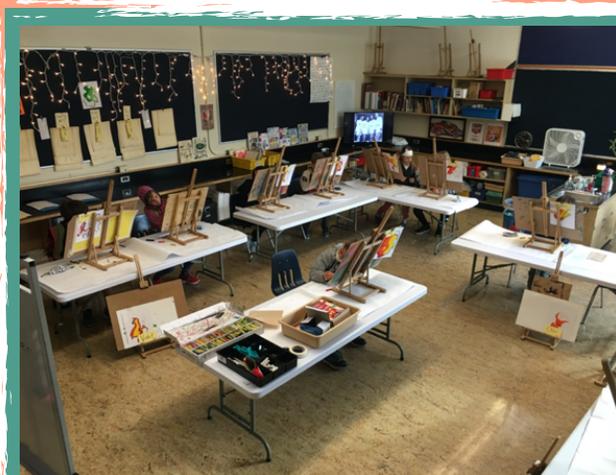
Thank you also to the students, parents and staff who participated in and/or made a donation towards our school's fundraising effort for The Terry Fox School Run. All our participants online have raised 72% of our goal. We raised \$1,658.00 so far and that does not include the offline donations, which are still coming in. Please send in any pledge sheets or donations to your child's homeroom teacher by October 8th. Here is the link again if you still want to donate to this noble cause! <http://www.terryfox.ca/caaschool>

In 1981, Terry said, "Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me." Thanks to your generosity, cancer research in Canada continues to forge discoveries that Terry could have only dreamed about. To date, the Terry Fox Foundation has raised over 20 million dollars annually and our school can feel good in knowing we consistently contribute to those amounts.

Every day we are moving closer to his inspiring dream: a world free of cancer. We truly appreciated your enthusiasm and positivity towards our run and look forward to doing it again next year!

Year 4/5 News

We have settled into our new spaces at Knob Hill, in the EC gym, and online! We have established routines and schedules that work for our classes, and are partway through our first major learning contract, Small Town. In this contract, we have “adopted” a small town in Alberta that we are becoming experts in. We have looked at the geographical regions that our towns are located in, learned about the natural resources and industries that are essential to their communities, and investigated the histories of how these towns came to be. We are becoming masterful cartographers as we learn about cardinal directions, symbols and legends, map scales, and more. Later in this contract, we will be creating small town characters to explore and connect with through creative writing and performance. We hope to be able to share our creations digitally with families closer to the end of October. In addition to our Arts Immersion contract, we are exploring patterns in both mathematical sequences and in spelling. We are also nearing the end of our first novel study of the year, *The Goldfish Boy*, which tells the story of a young boy who is dealing with OCD while also trying to solve a mystery in his town. This has led to many rich and age-appropriate conversations about dealing with traumas, living with mental illness, and what it means to belong to a community.



Check out the new
visual art room
at the
Knob Hill campus.

Year 6/7 News

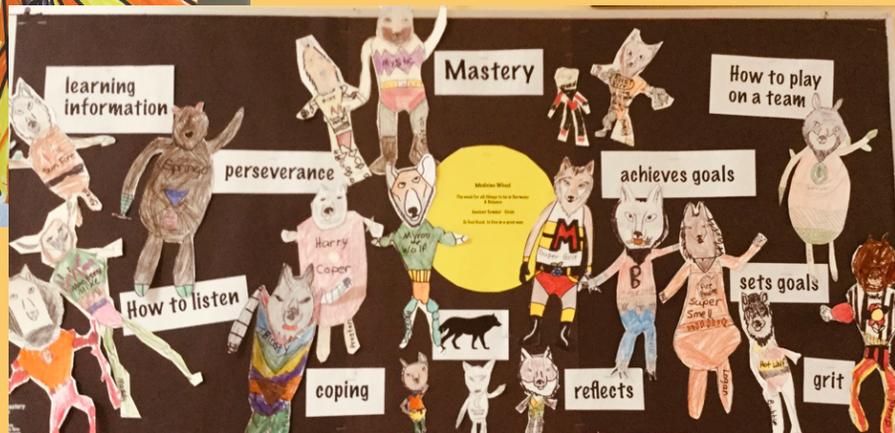
This past month we've seen incredible amounts of resilience, patience and laughter. Adjusting to change has been a journey with the Year 6/7 students. Our project around cultivating identity is still going strong. We've laid down a solid foundation and are working on our digital literacy with the creation of a website. This has been a tricky area of growth with a technology reservoir of mainly iPads to create websites.



Some fun side projects have been answering a design challenge from Mr. McCafferty about 3D printing, and the creation of low-poly masks with Mr. Lukas. Year 6 students are at the beginning stages of creating our own country through Civic Mirror with Mr Tukkimakki. In Year 6 Science class, we have been designing our own "crime scene" challenges for us to solve as we explore evidence and investigation. In Year 7, we have been exploring species adaptation and symbiosis within the natural environment.



Circle of Courage / Medicine Wheel
Super Heroes
in Kindergarten to Year 5



Year 8/9 News

We have made great progress on our "Fall Into Yourself" learning contract in September. We explored portraiture and character building in our fine arts classes, worked on movement and ballet in drama and dance classes, and learned about worldview and quality of life in humanities classes.

Ms. Leung did many demonstrations and experiments in Science class for us to explore the foundations of the universe - asking such questions as what is matter, and what are the states of matter?

We demonstrated our creativity and individuality as we worked hard on our Arts Immersion project to create an advertisement for an historical item. We will wrap this project up right before the October break with a sharing day, and are eagerly anticipating the variety of video, print, radio and billboard ads that we have chosen to create.



On September 30, we honoured Orange Shirt Day by learning about Canada's residential school history. We were honoured that one of our own students, Kassidy B., shared her connection to the Plains tribes by dancing over Zoom for us. We also watched a video of some of our own Year 8 students performing a dance about the Chanie Wenjack story on the Jubilee stage 3 years ago! We were moved to reflect on how we can be kind to others, and commit to a spirit of reconciliation in our lives.

As we move further into October, we are excited to begin an interdisciplinary Science / Language Arts / Social Studies /digital arts project where we will learn how to dub our own voices over existing film and TV clips!



Year 10 News



We are having a lot of fun working on our CALM project, CAA Dollars - Financial Literacy Project.

We are provided with CAA Dollars monthly. We are then required to pay for our classes, as well as materials and technology usage.

We're excited for our community walk in Inglewood which we will be doing on October 21, 2020. Included in the community walk is a visit to a not-for-profit, art based organization. We don't know who this is yet, and are excited to find out.

As is the tradition at Calgary Arts Academy, we participated in the annual Terry Fox School Run during the week of September 28 to October 2. Keeping with established protocols, we participated in the event with our cohort - all Year 10 students. We are thankful to our community for the support and for the donations. Donations can still be made until October 8, 2020 using the following web link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/caaschool>

In Math, we have tackled the Conversions and Surface Area/Volume parts of our Measurement unit so far, and are starting Trigonometry soon. We are taking either Math 10C or Math 10-3 and are all doing an excellent job supporting each other's learning.



Greetings! My name is **Kessa Den Hoed (Ms. Den Hoed)** and I am replacing Ms. Jonason as the Year 8-9-10 Math Learning Facilitator. I graduated from the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary in the spring and am thrilled to be at Calgary Arts Academy. In my three weeks I have already learned how unique, fun and charismatic our students are. Thanks for bearing with me as I catch up to speed with the rest of the staff. My email address is kdenhoed@caaschool.com. Please contact me with any questions or concerns as the pop up. Thank you for having me!



Hello Year 10 Families! I am **Ms. Leung** and I am thrilled to be teaching Year 10 Science this year. It has been a pleasure watching this group grow over the last few years and I look forward to learning with them over the next year! This is my second year as a Learning Facilitator at Calgary Arts Academy. I am currently teaching Year 8, 9 & 10 after teaching Year 6/7 last year. I graduated from the University of Calgary where I got my BSc in Biological Science along with my BEd specializing in Science. When I'm not in the classroom, you will find me baking in my kitchen or exploring new restaurants in the city. If you ever have any questions or just want to say hello, you can email me at mleung@caaschool.com. I'm looking forward to working with all of you this year. Thank you for all the love and support!"

School Council News

School Council Meeting Schedule

October 27 - Council AGM

March 2 - Regular Meeting

November 3 - Regular Meeting

April 13 - Regular Meeting

December 1 - Regular Meeting

May 4 - Regular Meeting

January 5 - Regular Meeting

June 1 - Regular Meeting

February 2 - Regular Meeting

All meetings are held using Zoom, information for which is sent by email prior to the meeting.

Volunteers Needed:

Washroom Volunteers at the elementary campus.

Classroom Parents at both campuses.

If you can help, please contact School Council at council@caaschool.com.



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Day 4	2 Day 5	3
4	5 Day 6	6 Day 1	7 Day 2	8 Day 3	9 Day 4	10
11	12 Stat Holiday No classes	13 Break No classes	14 Break No classes	15 Break No classes	16 Break No classes	17
18	19 Staff PD No classes	20 Day 5	21 Day 6	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24
25	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29 Day 6	30 Day 1	31

